

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The obviousness rejection was based upon the primary reference of J. Sweeney, A. Blair, A. Arduini, J. Petrucci. The earliest date of the reference is taken to be June 27th, which is first day of the 25th Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

An oath/declaration was filed 10/23/06 by both S. Dottori and A. Arduini accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR §1.48(a) to add A. Arduini as inventor.

The affidavit signed by S. Dottori and A. Arduini under 37 CFR § 1.132 and filed 10/23/06 attested that the co-authors of the cited prior art, J. Sweeney and A. Blair, were only assistants in carrying out experiments.

The affidavit signed by S. Dottori and A. Arduini under 37 CFR § 1.132 and filed 4/13/10 attested that the co-authors of the cited prior art, J. Petrucci and A. Blair did not have any intellectual contribution to the paper and were only technicians.

Therefore, the cited document of Sweeney *et al.* can no longer be considered the work of another and the claims are free of the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra Saucier whose telephone number is (571) 272-0922. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

Art Unit: 1651

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, M. Wityshyn can be reached on (571) 272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sandra Saucier/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1651